

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 3, as shown in the enclosed replacement sheet, has been amended to correct a typographical error. Specifically, numeric reference 313 has been replaced with numeric reference 312. No new matter has been added by the aforementioned amendment.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for indicating that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-27 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, 15, 18, 19, 26, and 27 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 12, 15, and 19. Claims 2 and 20 have been canceled by this reply without prejudice or disclaimer.

Note on Co-pending Applications

Applicants note that the present application may be related to one or more of the co-pending applications listed in the attached Appendix of Co-pending Applications. Applicants note that while some of the listed applications were filed after the referenced application and are distinct in subject matter from the present application, out of abundance of caution, Applicants hereby notify the Examiner of the potentially related co-pending applications listed in the attached Appendix of Co-pending Applications.

Drawings

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that the drawings filed on April 21, 2004 are accepted. However, Applicants submit a replacement sheet with Figure 3. Applicants respectfully request acceptance of this newly submitted replacement sheet in the next action.

Amendments to Claims

Independent claims 1, 18, and 26 are hereby amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claim 15 is hereby amended to include similar allowable limitations of claim 2. Independent claims 12, 19 and 27 have been amended to clarify that the data block checksum functions are selected from a plurality of checksum functions implemented by the system and to correct typographical errors noted by the Examiner. Further, independent claims 19 and 27 are hereby amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 20. Support for the aforementioned amendments may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0024] and [0031] of the present application. Finally, claim 16 has been amended to correct typographical errors noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully assert no new matter has been introduced by way of any of the aforementioned amendments.

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 16, 19, and 27 have been objected to by the Examiner for including minor informalities. Claim 2 has been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot with respect to claim 2. Further, as discussed above, claims 16, 19, and 27 have been amended to correct the minor informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0055942 (hereinafter “Reynolds”). As discussed above, claim 20 is cancelled, so the rejection is moot as to that claim. To the extent the rejections apply to the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

“A claim is anticipated only if *each and every element* as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). Further, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 18, and 26 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 2. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 18, and 26 are allowable for at least the same reason as claim 2. Further, dependent claims 3-11, which depend either directly or indirectly on claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reason. Withdrawal of this rejection to claims 1, 3-11, 18, and 26 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 15 has also been amended to include the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 2. Specifically, claim 15, as amended, includes the same configuration of components as canceled claim 2, which the Examiner asserted is allowable. *See* Office Action mailed December 29, 2006, p. 2 final paragraph. Accordingly, independent claim 15 is allowable for at least the same reason as claim 2. Further, dependent claims 16-17, which depend either directly or indirectly on claim 15, are allowable for at least the same reason. Withdrawal of this rejection to claims 15-17 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 19 has also been amended to include the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 2. Specifically, claim 19, as amended, includes the same configuration of components as canceled claim 2, which the Examiner asserted is allowable. *See* Office Action mailed December 29, 2006, p. 2 final paragraph. Accordingly, independent claim 19 is allowable for at least the same reason as claim 2. Further, dependent claims 21-25 which depend either directly or indirectly on claim 19, are allowable for at least the same reason. Withdrawal of this rejection to claims 19 and 21-25 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 27, as amended, includes at least the same allowable subject matter as amended independent claim 19. Accordingly, independent claim 27 is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of this rejection to claim 27 is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants respectfully assert that Reynolds does not expressly or inherently describe at least the following limitation of independent 12. Claim 12 has been amended to require, in part, “selecting a first checksum function and a second checksum function from a plurality of checksum functions, wherein each of the plurality of checksum functions is associated with a checksum function ID.” Reynolds does not disclose functionality to select checksum functions for two data blocks. In fact, while Reynolds discloses using a checksum function to perform checksum calculations, Reynolds is completely silent with respect to the aforementioned limitation.

In view of the above, Reynolds does not expressly or inherently describe each and every limitation of independent claim 12. Thus, independent claim 12 is patentable over Reynolds for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 13 and 14 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Further, independent claims 19 and 27 include similar “selecting” limitations and, thus, are

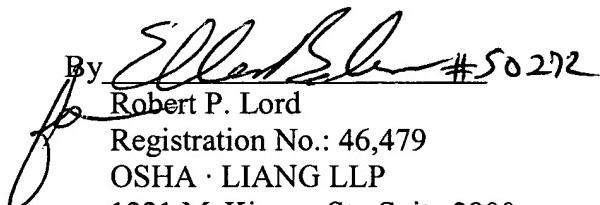
patentable over the cited prior art for this *additional* reason. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted.

Conclusion

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/396001; P9040).

Dated: March 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments (Replacement Sheet for Figure 3)
(Appendix of Co-pending Applications)



Appendix of Co-Pending Applications for Application Serial No. 10/828,715

Application Serial No.	Title	Filing Date
10/828,573	Method and Apparatus for Self-Validating Checksums in a File System	April 24, 2004
10/828,677	Method and Apparatus for Dynamic Striping	April 21, 2004
10/853,874	Method and Apparatus for Identifying Tempering of Data in a File System	May 26, 2004
10/853,837	Method and System for Detecting and Correcting Data Errors Using checksums and Replication	May 26, 2004
10/853,870	Method and System for Detecting and Correcting Data Errors Using Data Permutations	May 26, 2004
10/853,868	Method and Apparatus for Compressing Data in a File System	May 26, 2004
10/835,915	Automatic Conversion of All-Zero Data Storage Blocks into File Holes	May 26, 2004
10/919,878	Gang Blocks	August 17, 2004
10/919,886	Method and Apparatus for Enabling Adaptive Endianness	August 17, 2004
11/434,296	Method and System for Data Replication	May 15, 2006
11/406,956	Multiple Replication Levels with Pooled Devices	April 19, 2006
11/406,850	Method and System for Per-File and Per-Block Replication	April 19, 2006
11/407,773	Method and System for Dirty Time Logging	April 19, 2006
11/407,744	Method and System for Dirty Time Log Directed Resilvering	April 19, 2006

Application Serial No.	Title	Filing Date
11/407,719	Method and System for Metadata-Based Resilvering	April 19, 2006
11/409,427	Method and System for Pruned Resilvering Using a Dirty Time Log	April 19, 2006
11/406,747	Adaptive Resilvering I/O Scheduling	April 19, 2006
11/406,756	Method and System Using Checksums to Repair Data	April 19, 2006
11/406,578	Method and System for Repairing Partially Damaged Blocks	April 19, 2006
11/406,592	Method and System for Storing a Sparse File Using Fill Counts	April 19, 2006
11/408,134	Method and System for Object Allocation Using Fill Counts	April 20, 2006
11/406,590	Ditto Blocks	April 19, 2006
11/406,957	Method and System for Adaptive Metadata Replication	April 19, 2006
11/409,435	Method and System for Block Reallocation	April 19, 2006
11/407,772	Method and System for Latency Directed Block Allocation	April 19, 2006
11/407,637	Method and System for Using a Block Allocation Policy	April 20, 2006
11/432,067	Block-Based Incremental Backup	May 11, 2006
11/513,800	Unlimited File System Snapshots and Clones	August 31, 2006